

MAY 24 1963

Approved For Release 2000/04/14 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000600290046-8

**RALPH McGILL**

# Soviet Spy Case Proves We Watch

Oleg Penkovsky lies a-mouldering in his grave in some unknown plot near Moscow. His body was marred by the punctures of heavy slugs fired by an official squad of executioners. A court had found him guilty of selling Soviet secrets to Western nations, especially Britain and the United States.

Oleg Penkovsky was no ordinary man. As late as 1956 he had been assistant military attache in Turkey. When he stood to be shot he was 43, slim, his hair touched with gray, his face sensitive. His rank had been colonel. He had 11 medals and decorations. One was the Order of the Red Banner, one of the highest.

The prosecutor charged Penkovsky maintained a relationship with his Western associates that was more than a paid spy. Greville Wynne, a British businessman, was sentenced to eight years, five of them at hard labor. He was described as the courier. The courtroom crowd, which applauded the death sentence given to Penkovsky, cried out, "Too little, too little," when it heard Wynne's fate. The Soviet people also feel they have not been told what motivated Penkovsky.



McGILL

Official circles in this country and Britain have said nothing, nor will they. This is the way of life in the unknown world of intelligence. It generally is conceded that the worst of the many errors in the U-2 case, in which the U.S. pilot, Powers, was shot down, was the admission by then President Eisenhower that Powers was, in fact, on an intelligence mission.

The Russians had known of previous U-2 flights. Premier Khrushchev knew of them when he was visiting President Eisenhower at Camp David, and when he planned for the presidential visit to Russia.

That was the peak of Eisenhower's great effort to bring an international peacemaker. Khrushchev said he did not believe Eisenhower was behind the U-2 flights. When the President said he was, Khrushchev to the fury of the decision at the Paris summit meeting and to utter the destruction of Eisenhower's sincere ambition to bring the last year as an executive as a man of peace.

STATINTL

The best policy would have been to have admitted nothing about Powers and the U-2 flights. There is no comment from Britain about Wynne, nor is there any word from the United States about those Americans charged with complicity. This will be costly in just one area — publicity.

★ ★ ★

**THE MYTH EXISTS** that Western intelligence is ineffective, that only the Russians are good at the business of penetrating the secret world.

The Soviets, by their silence, have enabled those skilled in the business of reading what is said between the lines, or of hearing what is left unsaid, to deduct that Western intelligence did a very good job — so good, in fact, that the Soviets are shocked and are engaged in a ruthless shake-up and purge of their counterintelligence apparatus.

The disappearance of Gen. Ivan A. Serov, chief of Soviet army intelligence (unexplained at this writing), is a straw in that wind. Another fact to which Western observers attach importance is that Wynne received a sentence of only eight years — two less than that demanded by the prosecution.

Wynne was the necessary and invaluable courier. The supposition is that he was given a mild sentence because he had cooperated fully with Soviet officials. That means he supplied the names of those he knew to have been implicated in what must have been a substantial penetration of Soviet intelligence.

★ ★ ★

**THE INDICTMENT** said the successful supply of Soviet secrets to the West by Penkovsky via courier Wynne and others covered two years and included information about Russian rockets, forces in East Germany, Sino-Russian relationships and other matters.

It is highly probable the Penkovsky case contributed to the toughening of the Soviet attitude and the decision to avoid any agreement whatever in banning atomic testing.

If we recall the U-2 contribution and surmise that two years of contact with Penkovsky may have produced, we can be sure Western intelligence not only has kept pace with the best efforts of the Soviet non-departmental staff, it has not out-